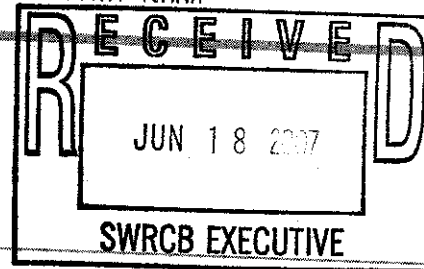


commentletters - Comment Letters - Suction Dredging



From: "Brian Hach" <cbjdhach@gmail.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 6/18/2007 11:54 AM
Subject: Comment Letters - Suction Dredging

Dear Sir,

I currently reside in WA state. I have been a dredger for over 15 years in California.

I wanted to bring to your attention my personal feelings of the effects from suction dredging on water quality. I have spent many weeks over the years participating in suction dredging. I hope that I can add some common sense to your review with respect to this activity.

- 1) Dredging requires the water flows to be far reduced from the winter and spring runoff before we can even get into the water. As for perspective, it is easy to recall many of the floods that occur within CA. rivers and then to compare this flow with the turbidity created by a dredge which many be able to move at most less that 1000th of a % of the total water flow through a channel.
- 2) The mecury that is found presently on gold in CA rivers has been placed there well over 100 years ago by the early miners and has been in our water supply for our existance. **We CLEAN UP THE RIVERS.**
- 3) We hate dirty gold. We remove the mercury and other impurities from the gold.
- 4) Suction dredge clean up the trash and other junk left by many different folks that pollute the rivers. This in itself helps the water quality.
- 5) The nozzle aids in adding oxygen to the rivers. The sluice often has a group of fish feeding off the tailings. They seem to be really happy eating the variety of foodstuffs.
- 6) WA state has similar "fish issues" and there are many studies that have been done as well.

I hope that this will aid in keeping a dredge operation in California.

regards,
Brian Hach